

REMARKS

The Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 19 were presented for examination.

Claims 10, 13, 16 and 19 stand allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 stand objected to by the Examiner because of informalities.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,099,433 issued to Brouwer.

Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,528,470 issued to Young et al. (Young).

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,713,813 issued to von Greyerz.

Claims 3 and 7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

The Amendments

Claim 1 has been canceled herein in view of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Brouwer, and also as being anticipated by Young.

Claim 3 has been put in independent form by amendment herein, including all of the limitations of the base claim 1. In that connection, it was stated in the Office Action that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. There were no intervening claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is in condition for allowance over the art.

However, claim 1 also was objected to by the Examiner due to some informalities. More particularly, the word "othe" occurring in step (c) was changed to "other," and the second occurrence of the word "of" in step (b) was removed when rewriting claim 3 in independent form. Claim 3 should, therefore, be in condition for allowance by the Examiner, since the formalities objections have been overcome.

Further, claim 7, also objected to as being dependent on the same base claim, claim 1. However, as depending from amended claim 3, claim 7 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 was stated to be unpatentable over Young as applied to claim 1, and von Greyerz. However, claim 5, as amended, now depends from claim 3 and should therefore be in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 13, 16 and 19 stand allowed by the Examiner, and therefore remain in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 19) are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

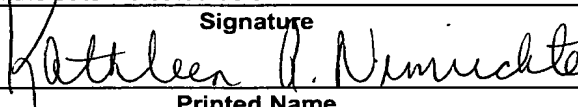
July 8, 2004
Date


Jay F. Moldovanyi
Reg. No. 29,678
1100 Superior Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

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Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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